



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 5406

February Session, 2016

* _____HB05406PS_____031516_____*

AN ACT PERMITTING PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL TO USE BLUE LIGHTS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 14-96q of the 2016 supplement to the general
2 statutes is repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof
3 (*Effective October 1, 2016*):

4 (a) A permit is required for the use of colored or flashing lights on
5 all motor vehicles or equipment specified in this section except: (1)
6 Motor vehicles not registered in this state used for transporting or
7 escorting any vehicle or load, or combinations thereof, which is either
8 oversize or overweight, or both, when operating under a permit issued
9 by the Commissioner of Transportation pursuant to section 14-270; or
10 (2) motor vehicles or equipment that are (A) equipped with lights in
11 accordance with this section, (B) owned or leased by the federal
12 government, the state of Connecticut, or any other state,
13 commonwealth or local municipality, and (C) registered to such
14 governmental entity. When used in this section the term "flashing"
15 shall be considered to include the term "revolving".

16 (b) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles, or such other person
17 specifically identified in this section, is authorized to issue permits for
18 the use of colored or flashing lights on vehicles in accordance with this

19 section, at the commissioner's or such person's discretion. Any person,
20 firm or corporation other than the state or any metropolitan district,
21 town, city or borough shall pay an annual permit fee of twenty dollars
22 to the commissioner for each such vehicle. Such fee shall apply only to
23 permits issued by the commissioner.

24 (c) A blue light or lights, including flashing blue lights, may be used
25 on a motor vehicle operated by an active member of a volunteer fire
26 department or company, [or an active member of an] organized civil
27 preparedness auxiliary fire company or volunteer ambulance
28 association or company who has been issued a permit by the chief
29 executive officer of such department, [or] company or association to
30 use such a light while on the way to or at the scene of a fire or other
31 emergency requiring such member's services. Such permit shall be on a
32 form provided by the commissioner and may be revoked by such chief
33 executive officer or successor. The chief executive officer of each
34 volunteer fire department or company, [or] organized civil
35 preparedness auxiliary fire company or volunteer ambulance
36 association or company shall keep on file, [the] on forms provided by
37 the commissioner, the names and addresses of members who have
38 been authorized to use flashing blue lights as provided in this
39 subsection. Such listing shall also designate the registration number of
40 the motor vehicle on which authorized flashing blue lights are to be
41 used.

42 [(d) A green light or lights, including flashing green lights, may be
43 used on a motor vehicle operated by an active member of a volunteer
44 ambulance association or company who has been issued a permit by
45 the chief executive officer of such association or company to use such a
46 light, while on the way to or at the scene of an emergency requiring
47 such member's services. Such permit shall be on a form provided by
48 the commissioner and may be revoked by such chief executive officer
49 or successor. The chief executive officer of each volunteer ambulance
50 association or company shall keep on file on forms provided by the
51 commissioner, the names and addresses of members who have been

52 authorized to use flashing green lights as provided in this subsection.
53 Such listing shall also designate the registration number of the vehicle
54 on which the authorized flashing green lights are to be used.]

55 ~~[(e)]~~ (d) The commissioner may issue a permit for a red light or
56 lights, including flashing red lights, which may be used on a motor
57 vehicle or equipment (1) used by paid fire chiefs and their deputies
58 and assistants, up to a total of five individuals per department, (2)
59 used by volunteer fire chiefs and their deputies and assistants, up to a
60 total of five individuals per department, (3) used by members of the
61 fire police on a stationary vehicle as a warning signal during traffic
62 directing operations at the scene of a fire or emergency, (4) used by
63 chief executive officers of emergency medical service organizations, as
64 defined in section 19a-175, the first or second deputies, or if there are
65 no deputies, the first or second assistants, of such an organization that
66 is a municipal or volunteer or licensed organization, (5) used by local
67 fire marshals, or (6) used by directors of emergency management.

68 ~~[(f)]~~ (e) The commissioner may issue a permit for a yellow or amber
69 light or lights, including flashing yellow or amber lights, which may be
70 used on motor vehicles or equipment that are (1) specified in
71 subsection ~~[(e)]~~ (d) of this section, (2) maintenance vehicles as defined
72 in section 14-1, or (3) vehicles transporting or escorting any vehicle or
73 load or combinations thereof, which is or are either oversize or
74 overweight, or both, and being operated or traveling under a permit
75 issued by the Commissioner of Transportation pursuant to section 14-
76 270. A yellow or amber light or lights, including flashing yellow or
77 amber lights, may be used without obtaining a permit from the
78 Commissioner of Motor Vehicles on wreckers registered pursuant to
79 section 14-66, or on vehicles of carriers in rural mail delivery service.

80 ~~[(g)]~~ (f) The Commissioner of Motor Vehicles may issue a permit for
81 a white light or lights, including flashing white lights, which may be
82 used on a motor vehicle or equipment as specified in subdivision (1),
83 (2), (4), (5) or (6) of subsection ~~[(e)]~~ (d) of this section. A vehicle being
84 operated by a member of a volunteer fire department or company or a

85 volunteer emergency medical technician may use flashing white head
 86 lamps, provided such member or emergency medical technician is on
 87 the way to the scene of a fire or medical emergency and has received
 88 written authorization from the chief law enforcement officer of the
 89 municipality to use such head lamps. Such head lamps shall only be
 90 used within the municipality granting such authorization or from a
 91 personal residence or place of employment, if located in an adjoining
 92 municipality. Such authorization may be revoked for use of such head
 93 lamps in violation of this [subdivision] subsection. For the purposes of
 94 this subsection, the term "flashing white lights" shall not include the
 95 simultaneous flashing of head lamps.

96 [(h)] (g) The commissioner may issue a permit for emergency
 97 vehicles, as defined in subsection (a) of section 14-283, to use a blue,
 98 red, yellow, or white light or lights, including flashing lights or any
 99 combination thereof.

100 [(i)] (h) The commissioner may issue a permit for ambulances, as
 101 defined in section 19a-175, which may, in addition to the flashing
 102 lights allowed in subsection [(h)] (g) of this section, use flashing lights
 103 of other colors specified by federal requirements for the manufacture
 104 of an ambulance. If the commissioner issues a permit for any
 105 ambulance, such permit shall be issued at the time of registration and
 106 upon each renewal of such registration.

107 [(j)] (i) Use of colored and flashing lights except as authorized by
 108 this section shall be an infraction.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	October 1, 2016	14-96q

PS *Joint Favorable Subst.*